



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

Rural District Council of
Stockbridge

For the Year 1920.

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TO THE
STOCKBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

STEEPLETON,

STOCKBRIDGE,

May, 1921.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
STOCKBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to submit to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of your District during the year 1920.

Situation.

The Rural District of Stockbridge is chiefly situated in two valleys of the Test, and the tributary stream which flows through the Wallops and Broughton, and the District consists of two sub-districts, Stockbridge and Broughton.

Occupation of Inhabitants.

The occupation of the inhabitants of both sub-districts is essentially agricultural, there being absolutely no factories or manufacturing mills; whatever—this makes the Factory and Workshops Act of 1901 practically a dead letter in the district, and no Report under that Act can be furnished.

Inhabited Houses.

The number of inhabited houses is 1,550, the average number of occupants per house being 4.17.

The subsoil is almost entirely chalk, with occasional strata of gravel.

There is, too, of course, soil of a peaty nature in the valleys.

Some of the Downs have been commandeered by the R.A.F., and two large Aerodromes have been built at Chattis Hill and Locombe Corner.

Levels vary from 128ft. above sea level to 450ft.

Population.

The population at the 1911 census was 6,485. This gives an average of 4.171 inhabitants to each house.

Water Supply.

In the higher grounds the water is taken from deep wells in the chalk, while in the valley the wells are quite shallow. In all cases intense hardness characterises the water.

Milk Supply.

The milk supply is, as usual, scanty, the milk from the large Dairies being sent to London, Bournemouth, and Southampton.

Cowsheds.

The improvement in the cleanliness of the cows still continues, and the cowsheds are in a much more satisfactory condition as regards lighting and ventilation. The cows are turned out in the day time.

Surface Water.

The difficulty in getting rid of surface water in the low-lying districts still exists, and the wet seasons we so constantly have now considerably aggravate the trouble.

Drainage.

Drains and gutters have been laid to the Test for the conveyance of surface water.

There is no general system of sewerage. Cesspits with overflows are in general use, and the bucket system still prevails in the cottages, while ashpits and vaults are not uncommon.

Isolation Hospital.

There is no Isolation Hospital for the general use of the District, but I have been successful in arranging with the Andover District Council to take in—on payment—any very bad infectious case, when they could do so without interfering with the accommodation required for their own patients. Of course, the Stockbridge District is too small for it to be possible for the Council to run a Hospital for their own use only.

Disinfection is carried out by means of the Linger apparatus, as recommended by the County Medical Officer.

Formalin and methylated spirit (the latter mineralised) are used.

Housing Scheme.

Overcrowding continues to a great extent in the District, though it is hoped to relieve the trouble to a slight extent by the adoption by the Council of a Housing Scheme, whereby 20 new houses are to be built at a rental of 7/6 and 8/- per week, rates to be paid by the tenants.

Births.

There were 153 births during the year 1920; 84 males, 69 females. Of these, 13 were illegitimate; 9 males, 4 females.

Deaths.

Only 73 deaths occurred during the year. Of these, 8 were due to cancer, 10 to organic heart disease, 3 to bronchitis, 5 to nephritis and Bright's disease, 3 to violence apart from suicide, 1 to pulmonary tuberculosis, 1 to whooping cough, 1 to enteric fever, 1 to influenza, 1 to appendicitis, 1 to puerperal fever, 5 to congenital debility, the remaining 33 to other definite diseases.

Ten children died under the age of 1 year. Of these, two were illegitimate—one of either sex.

Infectious Diseases.

There were 15 cases of infectious disease notified during the year. 9 scarlet fever, distributed as follows:—6 at Houghton, 1 at Kings Somborne, 1 at Stockbridge, and 1 at West Tytherley. 1 erysipelas at Kings Somborne, 2 paratyphoid at Stockbridge.

These cases occurred at the Workhouse, and were caused by the admission of children from two dirty families from Broughton, amongst whom carriers were found. The blood test was applied to all possible carriers. There were no more actual cases manifesting physical signs.

There were three cases of ophthalmia neonatorum: 1 at Brook, 1 at Queenwood, 1 at Kings Somborne.

During the month of March the following schools were closed on account of the prevalence of epidemics, viz., Broughton for whooping cough, West Tytherley for measles, Longstock for chicken pox.

Anthrax.

A case of Anthrax was reported to me by the Police under the Anthrax Order, at Mr. Moody's Farm, West Tytherley. The carcase of the infected animal was burned, and all possible precautions taken under the supervision of the Police.

Appended is the Report furnished to me by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Earwaker, who from his appointment in August last, has worked well with me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

WALTER K. LOVELESS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Stockbridge,

Hants.



STOCKBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

BROUGHTON,

STOCKBRIDGE,

3rd December, 1920.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to hand you figures with reference to the sanitary work carried out in the District during the period August, 1920, to December, 1920.

The number of houses specially inspected during this time was 37. Seven houses were found defective and were repaired. The drains of three houses were found defective and were re-laid, etc. Four new closets were erected.

Two houses were found to be in a filthy condition and the inmates were removed and the houses and contents thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Fourteen houses were disinfected after infectious disease, etc., in accordance with your instructions.

Six notices were served to abate nuisances in various parts of the District. This is in addition to several matters requiring attention and which were remedied on their being pointed out to the occupiers, etc.

The number of Dairies on the Register is 71. The inspection of these is proceeding as speedily as possible.

The number of Slaughter-houses registered is 6, and the number of Bakehouses 13. These have all been inspected, and where necessary instructions were given for whitewashing, etc.


Yours truly,

W. W. EARWAKER.

Dr. W. K. Loveless,

Medical Officer of Health,

Stockbridge R.D.C.



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